

Summer 2015

THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES ...

Where History Begins



50th
Missouri
State
Archives

The 50th Anniversary of the Missouri State Archives

THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES . . .

Where History Begins

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The Friends of the Missouri State Archives

The purpose of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives is to render support and assistance to the Missouri State Archives. As a not-for-profit corporation, the Friends organization is supported by memberships and gifts.

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**Missouri
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On the Cover

Rep. Alex M. Petrovic looks through piles of state records in the basement of the Capitol power plant in 1965, Missouri State Archives.



From the State Archivist



Aren't anniversaries wonderful? They provide us an opportunity to reflect on the past, while at the same time assessing the present and looking to the future. In the last month, the Missouri State Archives has been heavily involved in events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the laying of the State Capitol cornerstone, including, most importantly, helping to open the time capsule contained inside and assisting with the preparation of contents for its replacement. It was very interesting to see how the focus of the contents from 100 years ago was government accountability and transparency, two themes also emphasized by the new time capsule contents.



Helping with the Capitol building anniversary celebrations was tremendously rewarding for all involved, but this year also marks another milestone—one more significant to those of us in the archival community. Fifty years ago, in May of 1965, the Missouri State Archives was created with the intent to preserve and provide access to the records documenting the state's past, a mission vital to our understanding of who we are as a people.

If you are reading this publication, chances are you are, or have been in the past, a supporter of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives. As a historian, educator, genealogist, government official or researcher, you understand the importance of the Archives. Yet the unprecedented

access we now enjoy and sometimes take for granted has not always existed; many records were lost to neglect or fire prior to the establishment of the Records Management and Archives Service.

As records preservation and access improved in Missouri, the Records Management and Archives Service eventually broadened its mission to include the Local Records Program. The result of this addition on the records of counties, cities and other local jurisdictions over the last 25 years has been no less than astounding.

Despite these successes, new trials continue to arise—namely the preservation and accessibility of records born digitally. Judging by the successes of the last 50 years, however, I believe we are up to the test. Let's push history into the future.

John Dargatzis

History of Records Management

By Nathan Troup, Assistant Director for Records Management

Before the Records Management and Archives Service was created in 1965, it was commonly said that the only reliable way the state of Missouri had to dispose of its records—and also the most expensive—was to have a state office building catch fire. Records could be found everywhere, forming “paper jungles” that were an excellent source of fuel.

The 1963 Jefferson State Office Building fire was a turning point for how the state of Missouri managed its records. In its wake, lawmakers determined every state government institution must know and understand the records in their possession before deciding what to dispose of and what to save. With this goal in mind, Rep. Alex M. Petrovic sponsored the State Records Act, which, when passed in 1965, created the Records Management and Archives Service under the auspices of the Secretary of State. The purpose of the new division was “saving money, saving time and saving space.”

Every agency in state government was required to submit record inventories by the end of 1965. Soon, it was necessary to convert over 12,000 square feet of storage space in the Capitol to office space for the service. At the end of its first year of operation, Secretary of State James C. Kirkpatrick reported the division saved the state approximately half a million dollars, equivalent to \$3,644,000 today.

Space and financial savings received a majority of the initial press, but historical records did not go unnoticed. In the first year, the service catalogued approximately 4,000 historical volumes, including previously unknown correspondence concerning Missouri’s participation in the Seminole Indian War. Research questions were also received from as far away as Nigeria and Belgium.

Another turning point came with the introduction of microfilm in 1968. The division’s Imaging Section photographed over 150,000 images in its first month and has not slowed down in the years since. The ability to digitize records on a mass scale was then introduced in 2007. Readers who have used the Missouri State Archives’ Death Certificates, or, the newest addition to the Missouri Digital Heritage website, the Missouri State Penitentiary Records Collection, are familiar with this work.

Today, Records Management consults with state agencies to help determine what records must be preserved; operates the State Records Center in the James C. Kirkpatrick State

Information Center, which stores more than 391,000 boxes on behalf of over 400 state agencies from across Missouri; annually scans over 2,600,000 images; and produces over 4,000 rolls of microfilm. Although the focus of Records Management has expanded, its ultimate goal of saving money, time and space remains the same.



Secretary of State Jason Kander (left) talks with records center supervisor Charles Minze in the State Records Center Annex, 2014. Photograph by Kellyn Sloan, Office of the Secretary of State.

History of the Local Records Program

By John Korasick, Assistant Director for Local Records

While the Missouri State Archives and Records Management celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2015, the year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Local Records Program. Since 1990, Local Records archivists have worked in every Missouri county and the City of St. Louis, advising, educating and encouraging government records custodians in the use of sound records management and archival practices. In courthouses, city halls, schools and a host of other public entities, Local Records staff have improved government efficiency and aided in the preservation of Missouri's heritage. Record inventories have been completed in more than 775 offices, while Local Records grants and special projects have preserved over 122 million pages of records. Despite these and other lofty achievements, the Local Records Program has humble roots.

In 1986, then Secretary of State Roy Blunt initiated a pilot Local Records Program through the State Records Management Division. Although limited in scope, early evidence of the program's effectiveness was encouraging. For it to be ultimately successful, however, the level of staffing and funding would have to increase immensely.

When the Missouri State Archives' initial strategic plan, *A Future for the Past*, was released in September 1988, it called for, among other things, the expansion of the Local Records Program to properly identify and preserve local government records. By the beginning of the 1989 legislative session, a plan was developed to base staff in various regions of the state to work with nearby local governments. House Bill 786, sponsored by Rep. Francis "Bud" Barnes (R-Kirkwood), established a \$4 fee on filings in county recorder of deeds offices, \$1 of which would go to the Office of the Missouri Secretary of State for the preservation of local records. Sen. Emory Melton (R-Cassville) shepherded the bill through the Senate.

Then State Archivist Gary Kremer testified before multiple legislative committees and garnered the support of the Records Association of Missouri, led by Bettie Johnson (Boone County) and Sharon Carpenter (City of St. Louis), but even so, he recalled sitting in the Senate gallery with less than 20 minutes before the end of session, resigned to try again in 1990. Within minutes, however, the bill was introduced, a motion was made and the bill passed. Shortly thereafter, in July 1990, Lynn Morrow was hired as the first director, a position he held until retiring in December 2012.

In 1992, the Local Records Grant Program was launched to support public records management and preservation projects across the state. Limited to tax supported entities, these grants have funded a variety of projects, from the purchase of shelving, to consultants and microfilming. To date, the program has awarded 1,042 grants totaling \$6.5 million.

In addition to its mission to assist local governments, Local Records supervises the state's paper conservation lab. Conservators preserve paper-based objects through cleaning, physical repairs and chemical stabilization. Since 1992, over 1,580 projects have cycled through the lab, totaling more than 30,000 individual documents.

Perhaps of greatest importance to the success of Local Records is the remarkable stability of its staff. This continuity helps the program stay relevant to local officials, as the archivists are generally known in their regions. By making themselves accessible to local officials, Local Records staff assists with records management and preservation to the benefit of current and future Missourians.

Local Records has grown into a vital part of Missouri's records services, providing essential support for local government records custodians. As the creation of records continues to proliferate into the digital age, this role will only increase. So, the next time you visit city hall or the county courthouse in search of a marriage license, deed or some other important record, remember the behind-the-scenes efforts of the Local Records Program, because without it, that record may have remained hidden!



Local Records volunteers in Lincoln County.

Local Records volunteers in Lincoln County completed work on both probate and circuit court case files on April 23, 2015. Since beginning work in April 2007, the volunteers prepared 106 cubic feet of records, 10,193 files and contributed 4,057 hours to preserving local history. (Left to right) Linda Korasick, Bonnie Hubbman, Local Records Archivist Bill Glankler, Barbara Gorski, Ruth Hammontree and Sharon Benson.

Picture This

By Amy Moorman, Visual Materials Archivist

The Alex M. Petrovic Collection

The Missouri State Archives celebrates its semicentennial this year, marking the 50th anniversary of the signing and implementation of the 1965 State Records Act. The bill's champion, Alex M. Petrovic, served as a state representative of Missouri's 11th district from 1962 to 1966. Although his career in the Missouri House was brief, he went on to serve as eastern district judge for Jackson County and was instrumental in the development of the Truman Sports Complex in Kansas City.

In 1965, Petrovic introduced House Bill 294 to establish a Records Management and Archives Service under the auspices of the Secretary of State's office. At the time, Missouri state records were kept in file cabinets and basements, and had little, if any, organization. There were concerns that records could not be located, and that the cost of storing unnecessary documents in office file cabinets was costing the state an exorbitant amount of money.

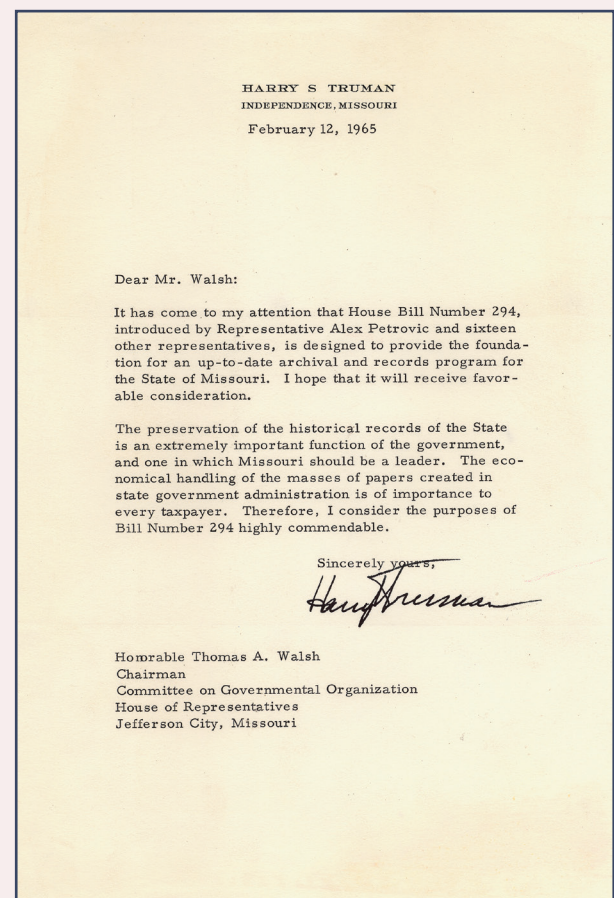
Petrovic surveyed the chaos, stating, "It made little difference what doors I opened, there were records in cabinets, boxes or just thrown on the floor. I found records rotting in basements and in one case floating in a puddle of water. In that case, a bulldozer could have done just as good a stacking job."

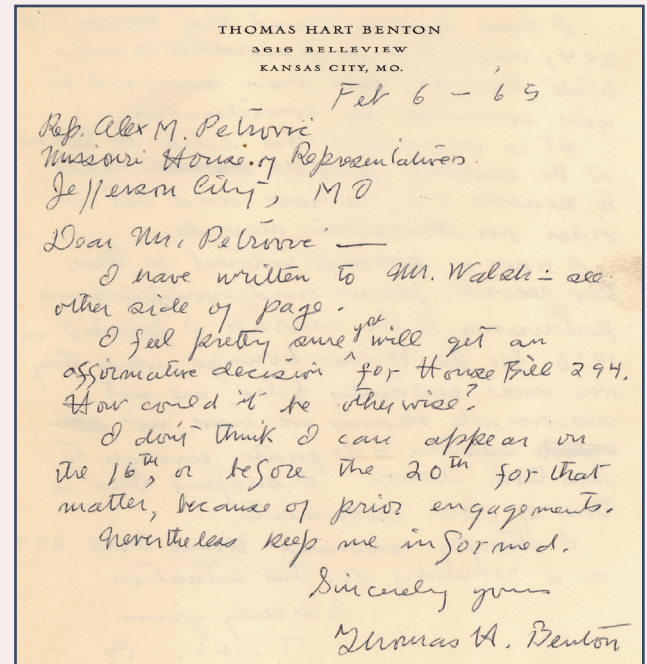
The Alex M. Petrovic Collection at the Missouri State Archives contains photographs documenting the storage of state records in these lamentable conditions before the passage of the State Records Act in 1965. It also includes copies of the legislation, as well as Petrovic's notes and research regarding the estimated cost savings of a statewide records program. Additionally, letters of support from influential Missourians Harry Truman and Thomas Hart Benton are included in the collection, and are coupled with newspaper clippings about the legislation, the establishment of the State Archives and the successful start to the Records Management and Archives Service.

For more information on this manuscript collection, see the finding aid at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default.asp



Above: Rep. Alex M. Petrovic (left) and Al Petroski, Director of the Federal Records Center, St. Louis (right) present Secretary of State James C. Kirkpatrick with a copy of American State Archives, c. 1965. Below: Truman's letter supporting Petrovic's legislation, February 12, 1965.





Left: Ledger books stacked in the basement of the Capitol power plant, 1965. Above: Thomas Hart Benton's letter to Rep. Alex M. Petrovic in support of House Bill 294.



Above: Rep. Alex M. Petrovic looks through piles of state records in the basement of the Capitol power plant in 1965. Right: Rep. Alex M. Petrovic (left) and Al Petroski, Director of the Federal Records Center, St. Louis (right) watch Gov. Warren Hearnes sign House Bill 294 into law, 1965.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Missouri State Archives

By Amy Moorman, Visual Materials Archivist

Prior to 1965, there was no coordinated effort to preserve and make available Missouri state records. Notorious for poor record keeping practices, state government offices overflowed with file cabinets, while researchers languished, unable to locate needed documents. In addition, several fires, including the Capitol fires of 1837 and 1911, and a basement fire at the Jefferson State Office Building in 1963, caused the loss of unknown quantities of records. All this led Society of American Archivists President Ernst Posner to declare Missouri “an archival no man’s land” in 1964’s *American State Archives*.

With the establishment of the Missouri State Archives, officially the Records Management and Archives Service, in 1965, Missouri had for the first time a repository dedicated to the preservation of records of historical value. Since then, the history of the Missouri State Archives has been one of service to state government and the citizens of Missouri. In its first 50 years, the Archives has organized, preserved and provided access to millions of documents, photographs and other records.

The current home of the Missouri State Archives, the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center in Jefferson City, opened in September of 1991, with 130,800 cubic feet of records storage, a paper conservation lab, reference room and separate climate controlled vaults for rare documents and microfilm storage. This modern facility offers in-person records access for patrons, while preserving state collections for future generations.

As new collections become accessible to the public through a variety of innovative methods, from microfilm to digitization, the staff of the Missouri State Archives is increasingly able to assist researchers. In 2014, staff responded to more than 24,000 information requests. When this is compared to the approximately 450 requests fulfilled in the first three years of its existence, it is clear the impact of the Archives has greatly increased.

In the digital age, the Missouri State Archives dedicates considerable resources to making historical records accessible online. In 2008, in partnership with the Missouri State Library, the Archives launched the Missouri Digital Heritage website (www.missouridigitalheritage.com), an online repository of over 9 million historical records from institutions around the state. As of June 30, 2015, the website

has been visited more than 574 million times, including more than 73 million times in the last year alone. This popularity has led *Family Tree Magazine* to annually list Missouri Digital Heritage among their top genealogical websites.

The Missouri State Archives is currently tackling the management of records born-digitally to ensure they remain accessible in the future. With the assistance of a 2013 National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant, the Archives will begin to create an Electronic Records Archives for the preservation of these modern documents.

Despite relocations, staff changes and ever-evolving record formats over the last 50 years, the Missouri State Archives’ core mission to preserve and provide access to the records of state government has remained intact. Here’s to the next 50!



Missouri State Archives Stacks. Missouri State Archives.

Summer/Fall 2015 Program Calendar

Over There: Missouri and the Great War **August 26, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Since 2012, institutions across Missouri have collaborated on a project to digitize historical content related to World War I, with the end goal of creating a searchable online database of period documents and artifacts. A Library Services and Technology Act



Digital Imaging Grant provided the funds for this effort, entitled *Over There: Missouri and the Great War*. The grant is funded by the Institute of Museum

and Library services and is coordinated by the Missouri State Library.

Along with the database, the project's website, MissouriOverThere.org, features articles from leading scholars in the field. Join the Central Missouri regional partners for an introduction to the website and a program exploring Missouri's role in the war.

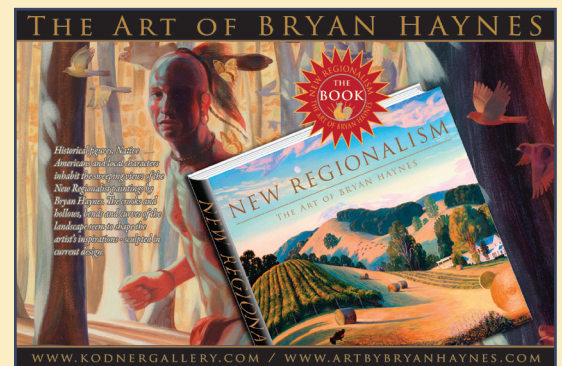
Brian Grubbs, Local History and Genealogy Department manager with the Springfield-Greene County Library District and *Over There* project director, will offer a short history of Missouri's World War I commemorative activities, including those in the digital age. This will be followed by a talk, entitled *Uncle Sam Wants You: Missouri, the First World War and the Making of Modern America*. Speaker Christopher Capozzola, associate professor of history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will explore how the war transformed the relationship between individual citizens and the federal government.

New Regionalism: The Art of Bryan Haynes **September 24, 2015, 7 p.m.**

For more than thirty years, St. Louis native Bryan Haynes made his living primarily creating commercial art. He built his career in Los Angeles as a commercial artist with his work on the pages of national magazines, international advertising campaigns, CD covers, posters and book covers. When he returned to Missouri, however, he rediscovered the Midwestern landscape and began to paint scenes capturing the seasons, history, animals, people and geography of the region. Haynes classifies his work as a modern

continuation of the Regionalism style made famous by Grant Wood, Stuart Curry and Missouri artist Thomas Hart Benton. Historical figures, Native

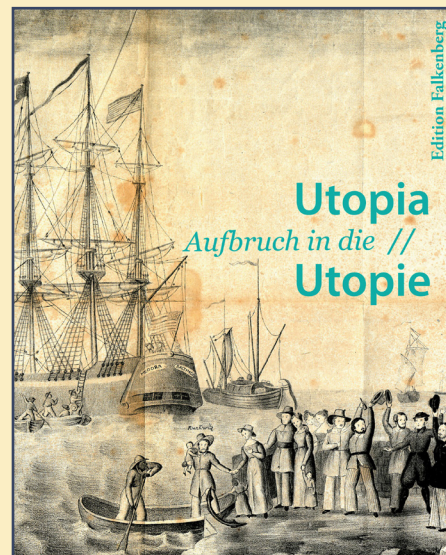
Americans and local characters inhabit the sweeping views of his New Regionalist paintings. In addition to the 200 paintings showcased in his book, Haynes' work includes murals at the Gateway Arch and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Join Bryan Haynes as he shares the story of his career as a freelance illustrator and fine art painter, as well as his love of the Missouri landscape and its history.



Utopia: Revisiting a German State in America **October 15, 2015, 7 p.m.**

In 1834, two university students from Giessen, Germany, Friedrich Muench and Paul Follenius, immigrated to America, along with 500 followers from the Giessen Emigration Society, to create a model democratic German state in Missouri. In 2009, an international team of historians, archivists and writers visited the state in search of what

remained of the society's "utopia." The findings became the basis of the traveling exhibition *Utopia – Revisiting a German State in America*, and the accompanying book by the same name. The exhibition traveled from Giessen to Bremen Germany, to Washington, D.C. and ended at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis in the spring of 2015. Join us as Dorris Keeven-Franke, contributing author, historian and executive director of the



Missouri Germans Consortium, tells the amazing story of these early immigrants and the challenges they faced.

All programs will be held at the Missouri State Archives, 600 W. Main St., Jefferson City, Mo., and are free and open to the public.

Archives News

Civil War Archives Alive! Completes Fifth Season

by Brian Rogers, Principal Assistant for Boards and Commissions

Nearly 6,200 fourth and fifth-grade students from schools across the state attended one of the 30 *Civil War Archives Alive!* performances this year, making it yet again the most popular annual outreach program supported by the Friends of the Missouri State Archives. The 2015 season marks the fifth consecutive year the Civil War-themed version of the program drew record—or near record—crowds to learn about Missouri's role as a border state, the impact of guerrilla warfare on ordinary citizens and the effect of slavery on the state's culture and economy.

Those in attendance enjoyed the educational and comedic antics of local Jefferson City actors Alan Bailey, Laura Morris, Mark Rehagen and Mark Wegman. The cast revisited their roles from the 2011- 2014 seasons, wherein contestants on the game show *Blast from the*

Past meet President Abraham Lincoln after he hitches a ride to the present in the Time-O-Matic 6000 time machine.

Co-sponsoring the 2015 season along with the Friends were the Missouri Humanities Council, the Missouri Arts Council, Hawthorn Bank and the Eldon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Missouri State Archives is extremely grateful for the generosity of these groups.

Since its inception in 2005, *Archives Alive!* has remained a favorite among students, parents and teachers alike, with many schools making return trips each year. If you are interested in supporting this invaluable program in 2016, please contact Emily Luker at (573) 526-5296 or emily.luker@sos.mo.gov.

The Civil War Years as Revealed in Missouri Newspapers

by Robyn Burnett, Reference Archivist

Many Missouri State Archives' genealogy and military records researchers will recognize the name Kenneth Weant. A microfilm indexer and transcriber extraordinaire, he boasts over 200 self-published Missouri-related indexes, abstracts and transcriptions of microfilmed records held by the Archives and other repositories around the state. Many of these volumes—which provide information about, or citations for, military records, death notices and newspaper articles—can be found in the Archives' county history and military collections. One 10-volume set provides transcriptions of articles related to the 1849 Gold Rush. Several other county-related volumes include special features, such as World War I draft registration lists as printed in local papers.

In 2013, Weant began transcribing newspaper articles from Boone, Buchanan, Caldwell, Callaway, Carroll, Clay, Cole, Cooper, Howard, Jackson, Lafayette, Macon, Marion, Mississippi, Moniteau, Monroe, Perry, Pettis, Phelps, Pike and the St. Louis area counties for a new series he calls *Missourians in the Civil War*. These articles, with their accounts of armed robbery, torture, murder, lynchings, executions and war casualties, make for sobering reading, but provide a tremendous new resource for filling in details of life in Missouri during these tumultuous years. Transcribed articles describe news of the provost marshals, guerrilla actions, runaway slaves, prisoners of war and more. Additionally, each of the now 27 volumes is separately indexed for researcher ease.

The transcriptions have filled in some important gaps in the official records about well-known events. For example, the series includes a

number of articles about the killing of Col. Florence M. Cornyn, 10th Regiment Cavalry, Missouri Volunteers, by his lieutenant colonel, William D. Bowan. Although the Adjutant General papers held by the Missouri State Archives have a few documents on the incident, the newspaper articles provide significantly more detail, as well as some information on the aftermath (Bowen was never charged in the alleged murder). Volume 21, meanwhile, includes a list, from the July 27, 1864 St. Louis Daily Union, of over 800 members of the Enrolled Missouri Militia who refused to take the new loyalty oath and had their commissions vacated. Weant not only provides the list, but also arranges the names alphabetically, which was not done in the original article.

Genealogists should note that not all of the transcribed articles are war-related. The newspaper reports include tragedies in the lives of ordinary citizens, such as a sawmill accident, a drowning in an icy pond and the death of a child from disease. Many marriage notices and obituaries are also included, as well as a smattering of relatively mundane events which may be of great interest to genealogists.

The series focuses on the years 1861 to 1865, but also includes some reminiscences published long after the war. Early in 2015, Weant guessed he was approximately halfway through his project but vowed to carry on "as long as his eyes hold out." Researchers are encouraged to peruse these volumes when they visit the Missouri State Archives but those who are not able to come in person may submit a research request to archref@sos.mo.gov. Please limit each request to a search for one surname in a single county at a time.

Archives News

Donations to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives

(March 20, 2015-July 24, 2015)

Newly Available Through

the *Missouri*
Digital Heritage Website

Records of Governor William Joel Stone, 1893-1897

www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=stone

Records of Governor Lawrence Vest Stephens, 1897-1901

www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=lvstephens

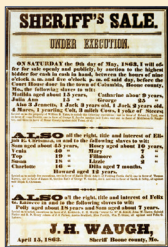
***New Exhibit Will
Celebrate the
50th Anniversary of
the Missouri State
Archives***

This fall, the Missouri State Archives will unveil a new exhibit to commemorate 50 years of preserving Missouri's historical record. *Past Preserved: The 50th Anniversary of the Missouri State Archives* will include a brief history of the institution's growth, highlighting several of the Archives' most important documents and the stories behind them.

The exhibit will open in the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center in Jefferson City and will be available to travel across the state in 2016. Watch for details about the upcoming opening reception in the coming weeks.



Slavery in Missouri



Dred and Harriet Scott



Redd^h Scott
mark

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